

WARDEN UNITED STATES JAIL, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Copy of a communication from the Attorney-General with accompanying papers, recommending an increase of the salary of the warden of the United States Jail, District of Columbia.

FEBRUARY 5, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 4, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Attorney-General, of the 1st instant, and its accompanying papers, recommending that the salary of the warden of the United States Jail, District of Columbia, provided for in the District of Columbia appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1897, be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,500 per annum.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE, *Acting Secretary.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, D. C., February 1, 1896.

SIR: I have to recommend, in view of the representations in a letter from the warden of the United States Jail, District of Columbia, and the recommendations of the chief justice and the associate justices of the supreme court, District of Columbia, copies of which are inclosed herewith, that the item in the District of Columbia appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1897, appropriating \$1,800 for the salary of the warden of said jail, may be changed so as to increase said salary to \$2,500 per annum. This increase has been recommended in the annual reports of Attorneys-General for the years 1887, 1888, 1889, and 1890.

Respectfully,

JUDSON HARMON,
Attorney-General.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., January 28, 1896.

SIR: We have read the letter of the warden of the jail of this District requesting you to recommend the increase of the salary of that office. Undoubtedly the salary of \$1,800 per annum, fixed many years ago, is very inadequate to the largely increased duties and responsibilities of the position. The jail is full to its capacity of about 300 nearly all the time, and many of the inmates are, at all times, convicts. The law authorizes the employment of the convicts, and recently some of them have been employed in and about the jail, and it is hoped that much more may be done in this direction in the near future. All the time of the warden is necessarily employed about his duties, and the present salary is not a fair compensation for a man competent to perform the duties properly.

We have heretofore recommended the increase of this salary, and we believe that one or more of your predecessors have done so. We hope you may find it proper to use your efforts with the proper committees of Congress to have the increase made as requested by the warden.

Respectfully,

E. F. BINGHAM, C. J.
 A. B. HAGNER.
 A. C. BRADLEY.
 L. E. MCCOMAS.
 WALTER S. COX.
 CHAS. C. COLE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

UNITED STATES JAIL,
Washington, D. C., January 27, 1896.

SIR: The District Jail, during the past twenty years, has grown into an institution of great importance to the District of Columbia, as well as to the General Government. The number committed annually is now far in excess of former years. This, with improved methods of management, has greatly increased the responsibility of the warden, who is now required to perform duties of an exacting character.

The improvements made in the building during the past year by the present warden have added greatly to the value of the property, and have been executed at a saving to the Government of a very considerable sum. The utilization of prison labor in these improvements was made necessary because the appropriations have been very small, and have thus added greater care and responsibility to his charge.

The proposed improvements contemplated in the near future will add still greater responsibility and additional duties to the office of the warden.

The salary of the warden, fixed many years ago at \$1,800, is wholly inadequate to the great trust and responsibility incident to the office. I therefore respectfully call the attention of the Department of Justice to the foregoing statement, and submit the following: The salary of the warden should be, in my judgment, increased to \$3,000 per year, and I respectfully ask the Attorney-General to recommend this increase to the Committee on Appropriations. This sum would be far below that of the wardens of prisons of this class in other places. The warden at Leavenworth, Kans., receives \$3,500.

The Department of Justice is familiar with the saving effected under my management, which may be urged as a reasonable matter of increase in my salary. An increase in the salary of the warden has been recommended by former Attorneys-General.

Very respectfully,

JOHN R. LEONARD,
Warden.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL UNITED STATES.